

Remarks

Claims 1 and 6-51 are pending in the present application. Claims 1 and 6-48 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claim 49 is amended herewith. Claims 52-67 are added as new claims. Support for these amendments can be found on at least pages 18-35. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added by way of this amendment.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the courtesies the Examiner extended to their attorney in the telephone interview dated May 29, 2003.

Claims 1, 6-37 and 42-48 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the relevant art to make and use the claimed invention. In order to moot the Examiner's rejection and expedite allowance of the remaining claims, Applicants have deleted claims 1, 6-37 and 42-48 without prejudice to the filing of any appropriate continuation application.

Claims 1, 6-37 and 42-48 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter with applicants regard as the invention. In order to moot the Examiner's rejection and expedite allowance of the remaining claims, Applicants have deleted claims 1, 6-37 and 42-48 without prejudice to the filing of any appropriate continuation application.

Claims 1, 6-19, 24-26, 29, 32-34, 38, 40, and 42-46 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Jensen et al (WO 99/37236). In order to moot the Examiner's rejection and expedite allowance of the remaining claims, Applicants have deleted claims 1, 6-19, 24-26, 29, 32-34, 38, 40, and 42-46 without prejudice to the filing of any appropriate continuation application.

Claims 20-23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Jensen et al (WO 37236) in view of Kipke et al. In order to moot the Examiner's rejection and expedite allowance of the remaining claims, Applicants have deleted claims 20-23 without prejudice to the filing of any appropriate continuation application.

Claims 27, 28, 39, 41, 47 and 48 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jensen et al. (WO 99/37236) in view of Kipke et al. as applied to claim 20 above, and further in view of Kennedy. In order to moot the Examiner's rejection and expedite allowance of the remaining claims, Applicants have deleted claims 27, 28, 39, 41, 47 and 48 without prejudice to the filing of any appropriate continuation application.

Claims 30 and 31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jensen et al. (WO 99/37236) in view of Rhoades. In order to moot the Examiner's rejection and expedite allowance of the remaining claims, Applicants have deleted claims 30 and 31 without prejudice to the filing of any appropriate continuation application.

Claim 35 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jensen et al. (WO 99/37236) in view of Nikodem. In order to moot the Examiner's rejection and expedite allowance of the remaining claims, Applicants have deleted claim 35 without prejudice to the filing of any appropriate continuation application.

Claims 36 and 37 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jensen et al. (WO 99/37236) in view of Cipolla. In order to moot the Examiner's rejection and expedite allowance of the remaining claims, Applicants have deleted claims 36 and 37 without prejudice to the filing of any appropriate continuation application.

Claims 1, 6-19, 24-26, 29, 32-34, 38, 40 and 42-46 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hare. In order to moot the Examiner's rejection and expedite

allowance of the remaining claims, Applicants have deleted claims 1, 6-19, 24-26, 29, 32-34, 38, 40 and 42-46 without prejudice to the filing of any appropriate continuation application.

Claims 20-23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hare in view of Kipke et al. In order to moot the Examiner's rejection and expedite allowance of the remaining claims, Applicants have deleted claims 20-23 without prejudice to the filing of any appropriate continuation application.

Claims 27, 28, 39, 41, 47 and 48 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hare in view of Kipke et al. as applied to claim 20 above, and further in view of Kennedy. In order to moot the Examiner's rejection and expedite allowance of the remaining claims, Applicants have deleted claims 27, 28, 39, 41, 47 and 48 without prejudice to the filing of any appropriate continuation application.

Claims 30 and 31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hare in view of Rhoades. In order to moot the Examiner's rejection and expedite allowance of the remaining claims, Applicants have deleted claims 30 and 31 without prejudice to the filing of any appropriate continuation application.

Claim 35 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hare in view of Nikodem. In order to moot the Examiner's rejection and expedite allowance of the remaining claims, Applicants have deleted claim 35 without prejudice to the filing of any appropriate continuation application.

Claims 36 and 37 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hare in view of Cipolla. In order to moot the Examiner's rejection and expedite allowance of the remaining claims, Applicants have deleted claims 36 and 37 without prejudice to the filing of any appropriate continuation application.

The Examiner has indicated that claims 49-51 are allowed.

New claims 52-67 depend from allowed independent claim 49. When the recitations of claims 52-67 are considered in combination with the recitations of claim 49, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 52-67 are likewise allowable.

The arguments made herein should in no way be construed as dedicating any unclaimed or amended subject matter or equivalents to the public, and were done solely to expedite prosecution. Applicants reserve the right to pursue any cancelled or amended subject matter in this or related applications.

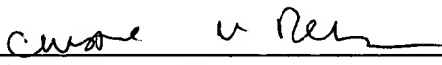
It is respectfully submitted in view of the foregoing Remarks that all of the rejections in the Office Action dated April 23, 2003 have been overcome and should be withdrawn.

Applicant respectfully requests early and favorable notification to that effect.

If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a phone call may help to expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' undersigned attorney at (312) 701-7174.

Respectfully submitted,

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